

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cutting a web, the apparatus comprising:
a cutting assembly having a length and including

a plurality of independently actuated blades positioned along the axial length of the cutting assembly, at least one ~~blade~~ of the independently actuated blades being operable to generate a continuous slit in the web, the slit being substantially transverse to the direction of movement of the web, and at least one ~~blade~~ of the independently actuated blades remaining retracted during a full rotation of the cutting assembly.

39. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 38, further comprising an opposing member, the cutting assembly and the opposing member being arranged on opposite sides of the web.

40. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 38, further comprising a plurality of actuators, one actuator is connected to one blade, and wherein the plurality of actuators are housed in an axial cavity inside the cutting assembly.

41. (Previously presented) An apparatus for cutting a web, the apparatus comprising:
a cutting assembly having a length and including

a plurality of independently actuated blades positioned along the length of the cutting assembly, at least one blade being operable to sever the web and at least one blade remaining retracted during a full rotation of the cutting assembly,

a plurality of actuators, one actuator is connected to one blade, and wherein the plurality of actuators are housed in an axial cavity inside the cutting assembly,

wherein each of the plurality of actuators is secured at one end to a first fulcrum integral with the cutting assembly and at the other end to a second fulcrum integral with the corresponding blade segment.

42. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 41, wherein the first fulcrum and the second fulcrum are ball joints.

43. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein the cutting assembly has a first rotary distributor to supply the cutting assembly with an actuating fluid for the actuators and a second rotary distributor to supply the cutting assembly with control signals and supply power for respective solenoid valves of the actuators.
44. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 43, wherein the solenoid valves of the actuators are contained in a module located at one end of the cutting assembly.
45. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein each blade is supported by a pivoting part hinged about a hinge axis, extension and retraction of each blade is produced by a pivoting movement of the pivoting part about the hinge axis.
46. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 45, wherein the cutting assembly includes a cylinder having a circumference, and wherein the hinge axis is radially external to the circumference of the cutting cylinder.
47. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 45, further comprising a stop engageable with each pivoting part to absorb at least a portion of a stress exerted on the corresponding blade during cutting of the web, each pivoting part being disengaged from the stop in a non-cutting position of the corresponding blade.
48. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the cutting assembly includes a cylinder having a circumference, wherein each blade is situated, when extended, circumferentially between the hinge axis of the corresponding pivoting part and the corresponding stop.
49. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein the cutting assembly is operable to rotate during a cutting operation.
50. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein the cutting assembly also includes a cutting cylinder having a length, the blades being positioned along the length of the cutting cylinder.

51. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cutting a moving web, the apparatus comprising:
a cutting assembly including
a plurality of blades distributed along the axial length of the cutting assembly, the plurality of blades operable to independently extend and retract from the cutting assembly, at least one ~~blade~~ of the blades being operable to generate a ~~continuous~~ slice in the web, the slice having a length less than a width of the web while at least one ~~blade~~ of the blades remains retracted during a full rotation of the cutting assembly, the slice being substantially transverse to the direction of movement of the web; and
an opposing member positioned on the opposite side of the web.
52. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 51, further comprising a plurality of actuators, one actuator is connected to one blade, and wherein the plurality of actuators are housed in an axial cavity inside the cutting assembly.
53. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein each blade is supported by a pivoting part hinged about a hinge axis, extension and retraction of each blade is produced by a pivoting movement of the pivoting part about the hinge axis.
54. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein the cutting assembly is operable to rotate during a cutting operation.
55. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein the cutting assembly also includes a cutting cylinder having a length, the blades being positioned along the length of the cutting cylinder.

56. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cutting a web, the apparatus comprising:
a cutting assembly including
a plurality of blades distributed along the axial length of the cutting assembly,
each blade being operable to move from a first position to a second position, at least one blade of the blades being operable to move into the second position to generate a continuous slice in the web, the slice having a length less than a width of the web while at least one blade of the blades remains in the first position during a full rotation of the cutting assembly; and
a plurality of actuators, each actuator being connected to at least one blade to move the blade to the first position and the second position.
57. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 56, further comprising an opposing member, the cutting assembly and the opposing member being arranged on opposite sides of the web.
58. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein each of the plurality of actuators is secured at one end to a first fulcrum integral with the cutting assembly and at the other end to a second fulcrum integral with the corresponding blade segment.
59. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 58, wherein the first fulcrum and the second fulcrum are ball joints.
60. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the cutting assembly has a first rotary distributor to supply the cutting assembly with an actuating fluid for the actuators and a second rotary distributor to supply the cutting assembly with control signals and supply power for respective solenoid valves of the actuators.
61. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 60, wherein the solenoid valves of the actuators are contained in a module located at one end of the cutting assembly.
62. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein each blade is supported by a pivoting part hinged about a hinge axis, extension and retraction of each blade is produced by a pivoting movement of the pivoting part about the hinge axis.

63. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 62, wherein the cutting assembly includes a cylinder having a circumference, and wherein the hinge axis is radially external to the circumference of the cutting cylinder.

64. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 62, further comprising a stop engageable with each pivoting part to absorb at least a portion of a stress exerted on the corresponding blade during cutting of the web, each pivoting part being disengaged from the stop in a non-cutting position of the corresponding blade.

65. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the cutting assembly is operable to rotate during a cutting operation.

66. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the cutting assembly also includes a cutting cylinder having a length, the blades being positioned along the length of the cutting cylinder.